

JIM COOPER
5TH DISTRICT TENNESSEE
COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
ARMED SERVICES

WEB SITE: www.cooper.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PLEASE MAIL TO NASHVILLE OFFICE:

706 CHURCH STREET, SUITE 101
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-3586
(615) 736-5295
FAX: (615) 736-7479

2598 NORTH MT. JULIET ROAD
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(615) 773-2305
FAX: (615) 773-2307

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
(202) 225-4311
FAX: (202) 226-1035

September 7, 2005

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

I am writing to you on behalf of the citizens of my district, for whom rising gas prices have become an increasing burden—and now a crisis. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of constituents have contacted my office with complaints of price-gouging and other unscrupulous behavior.

Although Tennessee state officials are already taking aggressive steps to crack down on price-gougers, the federal government cannot be permitted to sit on the sidelines. I urge your agency to take all appropriate federal action to pursue these bad actors and to punish those who would exploit this current tragedy for personal gain.

In particular, I request that your agency lend the full scope of its resources to state attorneys general who are prosecuting charges against profiteering retailers. In addition, I ask that your agency separately pursue reports of price-fixing, collusion and other deceptive and fraudulent behavior, and assist consumers to the maximum extent possible in reporting unethical practices.

Finally, I ask that your agency consider a broader investigation into the factors that have led to increasing gas prices over the summer. Although there is no federal law against price gouging, your agency has the authority to investigate industry practices, including the possibility of price-fixing, collusion and other deceptive practices. Americans have a right to know whether the increasingly unaffordable prices they are paying at the pump are justifiable—or if companies and retailers are profiteering at the expense of consumers.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your response as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

cc: Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission

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5TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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September 7, 2005

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Majoras:

I am writing to you on behalf of the citizens of my district, for whom rising gas prices have become an increasing burden—and now a crisis. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of constituents have contacted my office with complaints of price-gouging and other unscrupulous behavior.

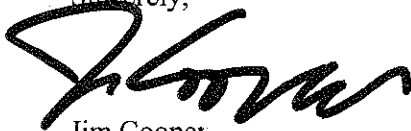
Although Tennessee state officials are already taking aggressive steps to crack down on price-gougers, the federal government cannot be permitted to sit on the sidelines. I urge your agency to take all appropriate federal action to pursue these bad actors and to punish those who would exploit this current tragedy for personal gain.

In particular, I request that your agency lend the full scope of its resources to state attorneys general who are prosecuting charges against profiteering retailers. In addition, I ask that your agency separately pursue reports of price-fixing, collusion and other deceptive and fraudulent behavior, and assist consumers to the maximum extent possible in reporting unethical practices.

Finally, I ask that your agency consider a broader investigation into the factors that have led to increasing gas prices over the summer. Although there is no federal law against price gouging, your agency has the authority to investigate industry practices, including the possibility of price-fixing, collusion and other deceptive practices. Americans have a right to know whether the increasingly unaffordable prices they are paying at the pump are justifiable—or if companies and retailers are profiteering at the expense of consumers.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your response as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

cc: Alberto Gonzales, Attorney General of the United States, U.S. Department of Justice

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September 7, 2005

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

I am writing to you on behalf of the citizens of my district, for whom rising gas prices have become an increasing burden—and now a crisis. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of constituents have contacted my office with complaints of price-gouging and other unscrupulous behavior.

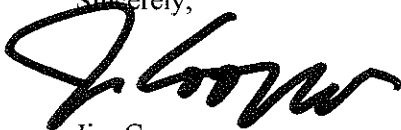
Although Tennessee state officials are already taking aggressive steps to crack down on price-gougers, the federal government cannot be permitted to sit on the sidelines. I urge your agency to assist other federal agencies and state officials to pursue these bad actors and to punish those who would exploit this current tragedy for personal gain.

In particular, I request that your agency lend the full scope of its resources to state attorneys general who are prosecuting charges against profiteering retailers. In addition, I ask that your agency assist the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission as they pursue reports of price-fixing, collusion and other deceptive and fraudulent behavior, and that your agency assist consumers to the maximum extent possible in reporting unethical practices. I am encouraged by your efforts to monitor gas prices and hope that you will make every attempt to share this information with both consumers and state officials who are seeking to enforce their state laws against predatory pricing.

Finally, I ask that your agency consider a broader investigation into the factors that have led to increasing gas prices over the summer. Although there is no federal law against price gouging, your agency has the authority to investigate industry practices and determine whether these practices have led to collusion or other deceptive behavior. Americans have a right to know whether the increasingly unaffordable prices they are paying at the pump are justifiable—or if companies and retailers are profiteering at the expense of consumers.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your response as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress